

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF
THE SCOTTISH BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION (SBBA)
SUNDAY 2 AUGUST 2009 IN THE HOWDEN PARK CENTRE, LIVINGSTON**

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

George Burt welcomed members to the 6TH SBBA meeting of the 2008/2009 session.

Present George Burt (President), Peter Fraser (Vice President), Tom Allan (Secretary), Alan McLaren, John Todd, Philip Lodge, Andy Smith, John Gilmour, Robert Burns, Julie Sanderson, Brian Deans (W of S BBA Representative in place of Robert McCorkell).

In attendance Alan Edmond (YDO), Donald Reid (Minute Secretary).

Apologies Gerry Simonis (Treasurer), Jennifer Fox, John Martin, John Hamilton, Robert McCorkell, Steven Gray.

2 MINUTE NO: 5 OF SBBA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 17TH MAY 2009.

Minute No 5 of 17th May 2009, previously circulated, was approved on the motion of Andy Smith and seconded by John Gilmour.

3 MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA

Julie Sanderson reported that blue scarves embroidered with the SBBA logo had been quoted for, with an initial set up charge of £40 and thereafter a cost of £12 per scarf. The scarves should be to hand shortly.

There were no other matters arising not otherwise covered in the agenda.

4 DEVELOPMENT

(a) Area Associations

Tom Allan advised that a constitution had been received from MSLBBA and Northern Counties and good progress was being made.

(b) Constitution and Rules

The secretary asked if Area Association representatives should have a vote at the AGM of SBBA. Alan McLaren felt that the rules already covered this issue and that Area Associations were really groupings of bands. Consequently it was agreed that they would have no voting powers at the AGM.

(c) External Liaison

Alan Edmond gave a comprehensive report on a recent meeting in Birmingham attended by representatives of brass bands in the UK and Kapitol.

(d) Statistical Returns

Alan McLaren advised that most senior bands had submitted annual returns, whilst a few non-contesting bands had still to reply. The main problem was the lack of returns from youth/school bands. Without these figures the return was less valid and it might be possible only to provide a generalised return. The YDO had contacted all the youth bands who had not responded and it was accepted that with school bands getting returns will always be problematic. John Gilmour felt that youth/school bands would not regard it as a priority, perhaps not realising how important it was for SBBA in terms of obtaining funding from SAC and other funding bodies. It was agreed that estimated figures would be better than looking at a partial return. It was stressed that this return was vital for SBBA particularly in relation to providing an overall picture of the progress of SBBA.

(e) Awards

A point was raised about special awards where the potential recipient had less than 25 years service. During discussion it was clear that this award was for very special contribution to banding over a greater period, but it was not a long service award.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

(a) Accounts

The detailed accounts had been circulated by Treasurer, Gerry Simonis, prior to this meeting and who had asked for any comments to be referred to him.

Following a Trustees meeting it was proposed to release certain funds from the events reserve to off-set the shortfall on the Solos and Ensembles Championship for 100% and for 70% on the Scottish Championships rather than taking the support from the registry income as had been shown previously. This was unanimously approved.

The Chairman advised that SAC had still to pay £4,000 to SBBA in settlement of the second year final claim on the Youth Development Scheme and he had been in touch to progress this issue, delayed now because of the individual concerned being on holiday.

The £50,000 bank guarantee limit meant that SBBA were still vulnerable, albeit that some major banks were in effect owned by the Government. The likelihood of those now failing was considered minimal. Following the proposal from the Treasurer it was unanimously agreed that the treasurer should open a second bank account to spread any perceived risk, keeping both accounts under the £50,000 level as an act of sensible governance by SBBA.

A further proposal that monies from the Infrastructure Development grant (final claim year 1) should be transferred to Area Associations with approved constitutions to support their activities, was unanimously approved.

Julie Sanderson asked about trophies held by SBBA being included in the balance sheet for accounting purposes and about their insured value. This would involve getting all trophies valued. It was agreed that Julie will make arrangements for a jeweller to be on hand on the Saturday and Sunday of both Scottish Championships and Open for this purpose.

(b) Grant Funding

The President in conjunction with the YDO had applied to and worked closely with SAC for grant funding to promote and create youth bands in areas where they do not currently exist. In our funding application, we had asked for a grant of £77,000 and were partially successful, having been awarded £55,000. This has to be spent by the end of 2010. Whilst it was disappointing that the full amount had not been awarded, receiving £55,000 was a real boost to SBBA for development of youth banding. Five areas had been identified where there was a potential or implied interest in setting up youth brass bands. He said that money was also needed for scoping by going out to areas and doing surveys to identify the interest in brass bands. The YDO was upbeat about this grant and highlighted that much work lay ahead. He felt that the focus now needed to be on developing new bands in different areas of Scotland and that was a real challenge for everyone in SBBA.

6 DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Nothing to report

7 EDUCATION / YOUTH

(a) Child Protection

In the absence of the CPO, John Gilmour advised that a CP Training day was held on 14 June in Bathgate with eight bands represented. The feedback was very positive. The band representatives had now completed the necessary paper work and this has been taken forward to disclosure stage and appointment of individuals as band CPOs. It was intended that two further seminars would be held for bands before the end of 2009. The question was asked as to who was the official SBBA Child Protection Officer (CPO). The President's view and understanding was that Jennifer Fox, as a SBBA Executive Committee member, was the new lead signature and Danny Harrison would be acting in a supporting role in the interim.

It was made clear that each band must have a Child Protection Officer in place and they would be responsible for the procedures in their own band. It was suggested that eventually the CPO for each band should be included on standard entry forms, perhaps beginning in 2010. This would allow SBBA to

have knowledge of each CPO. It was suggested that these issues be passed on to Jennifer Fox (and Danny Harrison) for further discussion. It was also agreed that the SBBA Child Protection Officer should not be subject to election each year as this would not provide continuity as the skills and knowledge built up were vitally important and should not be lost.

(b) Education Committee

John Gilmour reported that the committee had not met since the last meeting.

(c) Youth Development Report

A detailed written report was presented and spoken to by Alan Edmonds, YDO. He highlighted a variety of points in the report which is circulated separately to all member bands.

8 PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Brass Band Week

BB week took place from 23 – 31 May 2009. All bands who took part should have now received their £50. Peter Fraser added that it was disappointing that more bands had not taken part.

(b) Web Site

The SBBA web site had now been upgraded and access for updating had now been made available to Peter Fraser and this could be widened to others in due course. However, Peter Fraser said that the updating was quite complicated and this issue needs to be addressed. A further meeting will be held with John Martin to see if things can be simplified.

A meeting was also being arranged with an independent web designer, Alan Rudland, to take this issue forward in early course. It was again emphasised that keeping the site up to date on a daily basis was of the essence for SBBA. It was agreed that the SBBA site must be professional and easily updated by SBBA officials and on that basis the development will be taken forward and would be the focus of the planned meeting with Alan Rudland. The basic cost of upgrading was minimum £400 upwards, but it was absolutely essential that irrespective of reasonable costs, this be taken forward as a matter of urgency

(c) Publicity Officer

Peter Fraser intimated that he had now spoken with journalist, Allison Hunter, and she had agreed to take up the appointment as part-time Public Relations Officer (PRO) for SBBA, and this was unanimously agreed. The new PRO attended the last SBBA Trustee meeting and financial proposals had been made to Allison and she had agreed to them. The total budget for PR is £4,000 and a financial structure had been prepared and agreed including travel expenses. A formal contract is being prepared and Allison Hunter will be employed on a similar basis to the YDO.

Whilst the new PRO has no background in Brass Banding, she is an experienced journalist has excellent press contacts and is a professional PRO. A key role will be to take forward all aspects of PR on behalf of SBBA to ensure the organisation has a high profile in the media. This working arrangement will be reviewed and monitored by the SBBA Trustees.

It was highlighted that individual bands cannot use the PRO direct, but should first liaise with the Secretary. The PRO role is to promote brass bands via SBBA. It was agreed that the PRO will attend all SBBA events and there is also the necessary flexibility in this role which the PRO fully accepts.

9 EVENTS

(a) 2009 WEST LOTHIAN FESTIVAL

Peter Fraser advised that the festival went very well with no obvious problems. However, the attendance was rather poor. The winners were Kirkintilloch Band.

(b) 2009 SCOTTISH OPEN, CHALLENGE SHIELD, CHALLENGE CUP AND SCOTTISH YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This will be held in Perth Concert hall on 28/29 November 2009. 18 Bands will take part in the Scottish

Open with representatives from England and Scotland and Fountain City Brass from the USA. A press release will be circulated in the next two weeks.

The Friday night concert will feature Fountain City Brass from USA and Perth's 'Fair City Singers'. Sponsorship is still being sought to defray expenses.

There will be a ballot of 10 bands for 4 places in the Shield. It was suggested by the secretary that the ballot should select 6 bands, with two as first reserves in case of call-offs. A ballot was then held in the presence of SBBA Executive and the following bands were selected to take part: Lochgelly, Granite City Brass, Shotts St. Patrick and Dunaskin Doon. The first reserve is Bathgate and second, Dalkeith and Monktonhall. A ballot is not required for the Cup.

The adjudicators for the Scottish Open: Frank Renton & Philip Harper
The adjudicators for the Shield: Stan Lippeatt & Peter Roberts
The adjudicators for the Cup: Ian Porthouse & Andrew Duncan

A discussion ensued on the presentation of prizes for each event. Time was of the essence. A concern was expressed that if the presentations were all at the end of the event then it would likely that the audience will be poor as most bands will have gone home. After much discussion it was agreed that arrangements should be made to have presentations at the end of the Cup and Shield event, but not in the auditorium. It was agreed to look at this issue between now and the next meeting.

Peter Fraser advised that he had obtained costings for a marquee of £1,300 for the weekend via Henderson Marquees of Blairgowrie. This would be fully floored, making it more expensive than a normal marquee. The Marquee would be located near to the front door of the hall and would be used mostly for interim storage of equipment and instruments. It was stressed that the responsibility for all instruments and other items would remain with the owner/band and not with SBBA. Issues about safety and security were also discussed and potential damage liability of the marquee. Using a portacabin was also discussed and if it was eventually agreed that Peter Fraser would examine all the options and make necessary arrangements including looking at security issues.

It was noted with regret that due to a Perth Council decision it had been necessary to change the 2010 Scottish Open weekend to 19-21 November 2010. All bands are asked to note this unavoidable change of date.

John Gilmour advised that there are already 10 entries for the Scottish Youth Championships which he felt was very positive. Among them were some new bands to the competition. The closing date for entries is 1st October. There will be a pre-draw two weeks before the competition. It is likely there will be around 34 youth bands taking part, so it will be very busy.

(c) 2010 SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS

This will be held in Rothes Hall, Glenrothes on 13/14 March 2010. Peter Fraser advised that Fife Council have a new procedure for grants called the Flagship Programme. SBBA have to apply for finance via this method and the form had been completed and sent off. It is hoped that it will cover at least part of the hire of the hall.

(d) EBBA CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

Peter Fraser advised that the cost of preparing a video for presentation at EBBA 2010 as part of SBBA bid to host the European Championships in 2014 was £683. The standard of video is top quality and prepared by a professional. He will film over the weekend of the Scottish Open to capture footage for the presentational video including shots of Perth city. The video will last less than 10 minutes. Peter circulated copies of the brochures/leaflets produced for EBBA 2011. Approval was given for the video project.

(e) CONTEST DATES/EVENT CALENDAR

Land o' Burns Contest in Troon Concert Hall on 29 August.

FCBA Contest in the Adam Smith Centre on 3rd October.
SBBBA Contest in Peebles on Saturday 31 October.
W of S BBA Solo and Ensembles on Saturday 31 October in Greenock
MSLBBA Solo and Ensemble on Saturday 7th November, venue TBC.

10. Registration

(a) Registered players/fees

1788 players currently registered. The President advised that the cost of registration had been reviewed and it was decided that current levels of fees are proportionate to the work involved for the registrar.

(c) Exceptions to and breaches of registration rules

Nothing to report.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pre-recorded Music

Brian Deans spoke to a letter received from the West of Scotland BBA raising the issue of having pre-recorded music authorised to accompany soloists at youth competitions. He pointed out that allowing CD accompaniment is a standard practice in schools, rather than using a formal accompanist on all occasions. He emphasised that a CD accompaniment was popular with young musicians and it was requested that this system or using piano accompanist be permitted, as a player choice, at SBBA competitions.

It was stated that CD accompaniment was acceptable at Associated Board exams and other formal examinations. Brian Deans argued that the young people should have the choice of using CD accompaniment; live accompaniment or indeed no accompaniment at all. John Gilmour spoke about problems with young people turning up with CDs and not having a machine to operate it and very often being unable to find the appropriate track on the CD. He said that so often young people are not properly organised with tapes/CDs.

Following a full discussion, it was agreed that CD (not tapes) accompaniment be allowed for use at all SBBA Solo competitions, as well as traditional piano accompaniment or indeed no accompaniment. The choice of which accompaniment type to use will be left to the young person in all age ranges for SBBA events. It was pointed out that the Area Associations may have to supply a CD player for contests and it was agreed that this could be purchased from monies supplied from SBBA development funding.

Life Membership

The following Life Membership applications were received in respect of: Gillian McKnight (Creetown), Brian Anderson (Bo'ness & Carriden), Aileen Russell (Tullis Russell), Sheonaidh Spence (Tullis Russell), John Mabon (Jedforest Instrumental), Marion MacAfee, (Jedforest Instrumental), Angus Pearce (Kingdom Brass), Carol Sandell (Kingdom Brass), Ian Green (Kingdom Brass), Angus Cochrane (Dunaskin Doon) and William Young (Dunaskin Doon). All approved for Life Membership. The Secretary advised that he will have to order more medals as his stock was low. This was approved.

SBBA golf championship

The SBBA Golf Championships takes place on August 5 and any profits will benefit the National Youth Brass Band of Scotland. There will be no cost to SBBA.

AGM & Conference

This takes place in the Howden Centre, Livingston on Saturday 24th October. Ideas were requested for talks/seminars. All bands, including youth bands, are encouraged to be represented at the AGM.

Bandstand Marathon

This event takes place on 27 September and all bands who play on a bandstand that day will be eligible to a fee of £150. It was agreed that participating bands should be co-ordinated via Alan Edmonds.

12 DATE AND VENUE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be on Sunday 4th October at 10.30 am in the Howden Centre, Livingston. The Annual General Meeting and Conference will be on 24th October.